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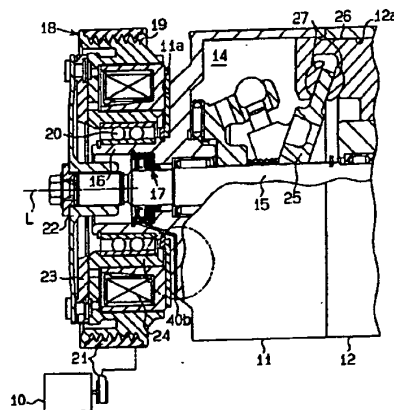
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(54) **A shaft seal assembly including a drain passage**

(57) An oil sealing structure having a draining passage (39) for draining oil from a seal assembly (17). The seal assembly (17) is located between a housing (11), and a drive shaft (15). A first seal member (31) contacts the inner wall of the housing (11). A second seal member (33) contacts the drive shaft (15). An oil barrier (37) is located frontward of the first and second seal members (31, 33). The oil barrier (37) extends toward the drive shaft (15). A plurality of drain passages (39) connect the inner side and the outer side of the seal assembly (17) between the oil barrier (37) and the second seal member (33). Oil that leaks past the second seal member is stopped by the oil barrier (37) and is drained to a location outside the seal assembly (17).

**Fig. 1**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>22 December 2000</b>	Examiner <b>Van Wel, O</b>
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**  
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